

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SCUL, UR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADORIAL REPRESENTATIONAL SCREENING OF "ONE FLEW OVER
THE CUCKOO'S NEST"

SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR'S INVITATIONAL SCREENING OF "ONE FLEW OVER
THE CUCKOO'S NEST" WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY OVER 125 INVITED
GUESTS WHO PRAISED THE FILM FOR ITS GREAT ACTING, TECHNICAL SUPERIOR-
ITY AND POWERFUL DRAMA. NUMEROUS GUESTS WERE VISIBLY MOVED TO TEARS
AND OTHERS LATER CLAIMED THAT THEY COULD NOT SLEEP THAT EVENING.
TO SOME THEATER AND FILM PEOPLE THE FILM WAS CONSIDERED TO BE SO
IMPORTANT THAT THEY PLEADED WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS TO SHOW IT AT
VARIOUS ACTING INSTITUTES IN THE CITY, WHICH OF COURSE, COULD NOT BE
ARRANGED DUE TO MPAA RESTRICTIONS.

1. MORE THAN 125 INVITED GUESTS INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
THEATER AND FILM DIRECTORS, CRITICS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS ATTENDED
THE REPRESENTATIONAL SHOWING OF "ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S
NEST" HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR AND MRS. TOON AT SPASO HOUSE ON APRIL 19TH
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05589 251340Z

2. COMMENTS AND REACTIONS TO THE FILM WERE UNANIMOUSLY POSITIVE.
ONE WELL-KNOWN DIRECTOR AND ACTOR OF STAGE AND SCREEN
WORKING PRESENTLY AT THE SOVREMENNIK (CONTEMPORARY) THEATER
CALLED THE FILM "EXTRAORDINARY AND WONDERFUL" AND EXPRESSED THE
DESIRE TO HAVE ALL OF HIS STUDENTS, COLLEAGUES, ACTORS AND
ACTRESSES SEE THE FILM. WITH A WRY SMILE HE SAID THAT BESIDES
BEING A GREAT EXAMPLE OF FINE ACTING,"...THE FILM SPEAKS TO A

UNIVERSAL PROBLEM OF MANKIND; NOT NECESSARILY YOURS, NOT NECESSARILY OURS."

WRITER MIKHAIL ROSHCHIN OPINED THAT "THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FILM PRODUCED IN THE LAST 20 YEARS," AND A NUMBER OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN ATTENDANCE AGREED. HE WANTED TO ARRANGE A PRIVATE SHOWING FOR OVER 400 ACTORS, DIRECTORS AND STUDENTS AT THE MKHAT THEATER (MOSCOW ART THEATER).

A LEADING ACTOR OF THE MKHAT THEATER, I. SMOKTUNOVSKIY LAUDED THE FILM AND CLAIMED THAT IT CONTAINED "...SOME OF THE BEST ACTING THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN; ESPECIALLY NICHOLSON, THOUGH I THOUGHT THAT FLETCHER EVEN OUTDID HIM."

ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS MOSFILM CAMERAMAN THOUGHT THAT THE FILM WAS TECHNICALLY EXCELLENT AND THE THEME SO STRONG THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR "US" TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

ONE PERSON, SEEN THE NEXT DAY, SAID THAT SHE COULD NOT SLEEP AFTER SEEING THE FILM. ANOTHER VIEWER WHO SAW THE FILM FOR THE SECOND TIME WAS LIKEWISE DISTURBED AND COULD NOT SLEEP. ANOTHER REPEATER SAID "HE COULD NOT TAKE IT AGAIN".

SEVERAL ACTRESSES WERE SO VISIBLY MOVED BY THE DRAMA THAT THEY HAD TEARS IN THEIR EYES AT THE END OF THE FILM, AS DID OTHERS.

BORIS YERMOLAYEV, FILM DIRECTOR WITH MOSFILM, WAS SO DEEPLY MOVED THAT HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON IT AFTER THE PERFORMANCE BUT INVITED AN EMBOFF TO HIS APARTMENT TO DISCUSS HIS REACTIONS AT A LATER DATE.

3. AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, G.M. KORNIYENKO ON ANOTHER MATTER EARLIER THAT SAME DAY PRIOR TO THE SHOWING, THE DEPUTY MINISTER WAS VERY COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT THE FILM
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05589 251340Z

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CALLING IT A "VERY GOOD FILM." HE HAD SEEN IT BEFORE BUT WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE SPASO HOUSE SHOWING.

4. AN INTERESTING ASIDE CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE FILM: WHEN A WRITER LEFT SPASO HOUSE TO MEET HIS WIFE, WHO ARRIVED LATE, AT THE "MILITIA GUARD HUT," THE GUARD ON DUTY WHISPERED TO THE WRITER, "ARE YOU SHOWING DOCTOR ZHIVAGO," THE WRITER CLEVERLY QUIPPED, "DOCTOR ZHIVAGO II" IN REFERENCE TO RECENT SOVIET DISPLEASURE AT "DOCTOR ZHIVAGO" BEING SHOWN PRIVATELY TO SOVIETS IN EMBASSY OFFICERS' HOMES.

5. THE SAME WRITER, WHEN MENTIONING HIS INTEREST IN TRANSLATING THE BOOK FOR PUBLICATION IN A MOSCOW MAGAZINE WAS CONFRONTED BY A SOVIET OFFICIAL FROM THE USA INSTITUTE, WITH THE STATEMENT THAT HE SHOULDN'T DO IT. "IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IT WERE NOT PUBLISHED IN THE USSR."

6. IN SHORT, THIS WAS PROBABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTA-

TIONAL FILM SHOWN FOR YEARS AND ONE THAT WILL HAVE THE MOST
WIDE-RANGING, LONG-TERM EFFECT ON THE VIEWERS.

7. FOR BERLIN: FILM AIRPOUCHED UNDER
REGISTRY NUMBERS: 1911304 AND 1911305. TOON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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